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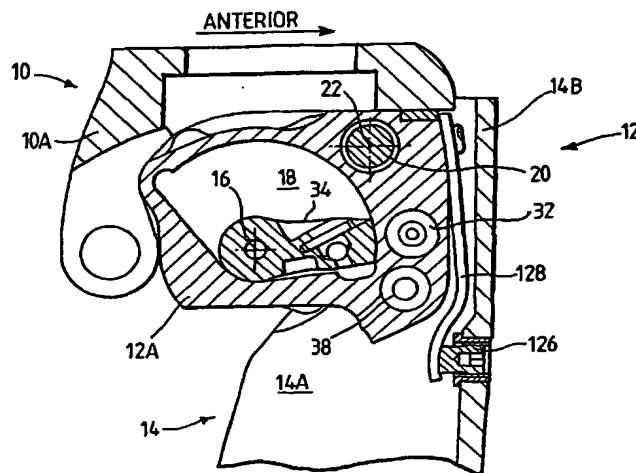
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(54) Title: PROSTHETIC KNEE JOINT MECHANISM



(57) Abstract: A prosthetic knee joint mechanism has an hydraulic load-activated knee-stabilizing device for resisting joint flexion. A rotary piston (34) connected to one part of the mechanism is rotatable within a fluid-filled fluid displacement chamber (18) associated with another part of the mechanism to drive fluid through a fluid passage which contains a main valve (38) which restricts or allows joint flexion according to the position of a valve member within the valve. The valve member is movable towards an open position in response to fluid pressure in the fluid passage upstream of the valve member caused by application of a flexion torque to the knee joint mechanism, movement of the valve member in the direction of the open position being at least resisted by a valve control arrangement actuated by application of the wearer's weight. The weight-responsive valve control arrangement is preferably a weight-responsive pilot valve (32) for hydraulically resisting movement of the valve member of the main valve.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61F2/64 A61F2/68

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 93 20 853 U (BOCK ORTHOPAED IND) 16 March 1995 (1995-03-16)	1,2, 13-18, 22,27,28
Y	pages 4-7; claims; figures 2,4-6	3,5-11, 19-21, 23-26
A	-& CA 2 134 999 A 16 May 1995 (1995-05-16) cited in the application	1-28
A	US 6 113 642 A (GRUESBECK WILLIAM G ET AL) 5 September 2000 (2000-09-05)	1,2,4, 12-18, 22,27,28
Y	column 6, line 40 - column 9, line 9	3,5-11, 19-21, 23-26
	column 20, line 20 - column 21, line 11 claims; figures 2-7,14,28	
		-/-

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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